

APPENDIX A

1. (Currently Amended): A method for an ordering and payment allocation system for a seller, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving, at the ordering and payment allocation system, two or more orders from a plurality of buyers associated with a plurality of buying entities, **wherein the two or more orders includes at least one order from each of the plurality of buyers**, the orders corresponding to more than one subsidiary of the seller;

consolidating, at the ordering and payment allocation system, the orders into a plurality of consolidated invoices, each of the plurality of consolidated invoices comprising particulars on the orders of the plurality of buyers associated with one of the plurality of buying entities;

making each of the consolidated invoices available to the corresponding buying entity;

receiving, at the ordering and payment allocation system, each of the consolidated invoices from the corresponding buying entity, wherein each of the consolidated invoices includes an indication from the corresponding buying entity as to which of the orders a payment is being approved and which orders are being disputed or excepted;

receiving, at the ordering and payment allocation system, an aggregated payment from the each of plurality of buying entities;

disaggregating each of the aggregated payments by associating portions of the aggregated payment with an approved order and a corresponding subsidiary;

allocating the portions of each of the aggregated payments to the corresponding subsidiary for which the payment has been made;

gathering A/R data and information based on the payments to subsidiaries, approved orders or the disputed or excepted orders; and

providing the A/R data and information to the seller.

2. (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the orders are received electronically.

3. (Original): The method according to Claim 2, wherein the orders are received via the Internet.

4. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1 further comprising the act of evaluating a received order against at least one of a spending limit corresponding to the buyer's organization and an available credit limit corresponding to the buyer's organization to determine whether to book the received order.

5. (Original): The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the acts of: booking those received orders which have been evaluated as not exceeding the evaluated spending limits; and creating a receivable entry in a seller account receivable system.

6. (Original): The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the act of executing one or more off-balance sheet processes.

7. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the consolidation act is comprised of the acts of sorting and compiling the booked orders to create a single invoice.

8. (Original): The method according to Claim 7, wherein the compiling act includes formatting booked orders received from different buying organizations into a common format.

9. (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the consolidated invoice includes sub-invoice data, sub-invoice data being data which corresponds to booked orders placed by a respective buyer.

10. (Original): The method according to Claim 9, wherein the sub-invoice data is transmitted to the respective buyer.

11. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the act of making the consolidated invoice available includes at least one of:

 sending an electronic message to the buyer to notify the buyer of an availability of
 the consolidated invoice;
 distributing a paper statement to the buyer; and
 transmitting the consolidated invoice to the buyer.

12. (Original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the act of displaying the consolidated invoice on a buyer terminal, wherein the buyer indicates approval of sub-invoice items corresponding to the consolidated invoice using the buyer terminal.

13. (Original): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the indication includes the act of entering a code corresponding to a reason payment is being approved or denied for a sub-invoice item.

14. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 12, further comprising the act of using the buyer terminal to authorize payment to the seller.

15. (Original): The method according to Claim 12, further comprising the act of receiving a payment from the buyer.

16. (Original): The method according to Claim 15, wherein the payment is received via one of an automated clearing house, a wire transfer, a lock box, a foreign exchange trade, electronic cash, netting via the Internet, an electronic wallet and a check.

17. (Original): The method according to Claim 15, further comprising the act of updating a payment master database, the payment master database comprising records having:

- a payment date;
- a payment method;
- a payment reference;
- a payment amount;
- a from currency;
- a to currency;
- f/x, tax and fee data;
- a distribution status; and
- an amount distributed.

18. (Original): The method according to Claim 15, further comprising the act of processing the received payment.

19. (Original): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the act of processing the received payment is comprised of at least one of the acts of:

performing a consolidated receivables process to gather payment data into
consolidated receivables data for a single report;
matching the consolidated receivables data to an outstanding sub-invoice file, and
providing the matched data to the seller;
providing complete accounts receivable processing, the act of providing complete
accounts receivable processing comprising the acts of:
receiving the matched data;
applying the merged and consolidated receivables data to create accounts
receivable and general ledger update data; and
updating a general ledger corresponding to the seller.

20. (Original): The method according to Claim 19, wherein the payment data gathered into the single report during the consolidated receivables process is received from a plurality of service providers.

21. (Original): The method according to Claim 13, wherein the allocation act is comprised of the acts of:

receiving the authorized payment;
disaggregating the received payment to associate portions of the received payment
with one or more selling sub-entities;
processing the received payment to update an accounts receivable system;
generating at least one funding report;
delivering the at least one funding report to the respective sub-entities; and
transferring the disaggregated funds to financial accounts for the corresponding
sub-entities.

22. (Original): The method according to Claim 21, wherein the funding report generation act is comprised of the act of updating a payment master database to reflect a distribution status and amount distributed to the corresponding subsidiary.

23. (Original): The method according to Claim 22, wherein the funding report comprises:

- a list of sub-invoice items included in the distribution;
- a payment date;
- results of exception and dispute processing;
- sub-invoice details; and
- reason codes.

24. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the allocation act includes the acts of:

- receiving the payment;
- determining an incremental funding amount;
- funding a subsidiary corresponding to a holding account via a foreign exchange if
 - the incremental funding amount equals or exceed a predetermined total
 - when combined with a holding account amount; and
- allocating the incremental funding amount to the holding account amount when
 - the incremental funding amount is less than the predetermined total when
 - combined with the holding account amount.

25.-66 (Canceled)

67. (Currently Amended): A storage medium storing computer executable programmatic code for an order management system for a seller, which, when executed, performs the acts of:

receiving, at the order management system, two or more orders from a plurality of buyers associated with a plurality of buying entities, **wherein the two or more orders includes at least one order from each of the plurality of buyers**, the orders corresponding to more than one subsidiary of the seller;

consolidating, at the order management system, the orders into a plurality of consolidated invoices, each of the plurality of consolidated invoices comprising particulars on the orders of the plurality of buyers associated with one of the plurality of buying entities;

making each of the consolidated invoices available to the corresponding buying entity;

receiving, at the order management system, each of the consolidated invoices from the corresponding buying entity, wherein each of the consolidated invoices includes an indication from the corresponding buying entity as to which of the orders a payment is being authorized and which orders are being disputed or excepted;

receiving, at the order management system, the aggregated payment from each of the plurality of buying entities;

disaggregating each of the aggregated payments by associating portions of the aggregated payment with an approved order and a corresponding subsidiary;

allocating the portions of each of the aggregated payments to the corresponding subsidiary for which the payment has been made;

gathering A/R data and information based on the payments to subsidiaries, approved orders or the disputed or excepted orders; and

providing the A/R data and information to the seller.

68. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the orders are received electronically.

69. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 68, wherein the orders are received via the Internet.

70. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 68, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of evaluating the received order against at least one of a spending limit corresponding to the buyer's and an available credit limit corresponding to the buyer's organization to determine whether to book the order.

71. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 70, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the acts of:

booking those received orders which have been evaluated as not exceeding the evaluated spending limits; and

creating a receivable entry in a seller account receivable system.

72. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 71, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of executing one or more off-balance sheet processes.

73. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the consolidation act is comprised of the acts of sorting and compiling the booked orders to create a single invoice.

74. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 73, wherein the compiling act includes formatting booked orders received from different buying organizations into a common format.

75. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the consolidated invoice includes sub-invoice data, sub-invoice data being data which corresponds to booked orders placed by a respective buyer.

76. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 75, wherein the sub-invoice data is transmitted to the respective buyer.

77. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the act of making the consolidated invoice available includes at least one of:

 sending an electronic message to the buyer to notify the buyer of the availability
 of the consolidated invoice;
 distributing a paper statement to the buyer; and
 transmitting the consolidated invoice to the buyer.

78. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of displaying the consolidated invoice on a

buyer terminal, wherein the buyer indicates approval of sub-invoice items corresponding to the consolidated invoice using the buyer terminal.

79. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 78, wherein the buyer's approval indication includes the act of entering a code corresponding to a reason payment is being approved or denied for a sub-invoice item.

80. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 78, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of using the buyer terminal to authorize payment to the seller.

81. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 78, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of receiving a payment from the buyer.

82. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 81, wherein the payment is received via one of an automated clearing house, a wire transfer, a lock box, a foreign exchange trade, electronic cash, netting via the Internet, an electronic wallet and a check.

83. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 81, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of updating a payment master database, the payment master database comprising records which include:

- a payment date;
- a payment method;
- a payment reference;
- a payment amount;
- a from currency;
- a to currency;
- f/x, tax and fee data;

a distribution status; and

an amount distributed.

84. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 81, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of processing the received payment.

85. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 84, wherein the act of processing the received payment is comprised of at least one of the acts of:

performing a consolidated receivables process to gather payment data into

consolidated receivables data for a single report;

matching the consolidated receivables data to an outstanding sub-invoice file, and

providing the matched data to the seller; and

providing complete accounts receivable processing, the act of providing complete

accounts receivable processing comprising the acts of:

receiving the matched data;

applying the merged and consolidated receivables data to create accounts

receivable and general ledger update data; and

updating a general ledger corresponding to the seller.

86. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 84, wherein the payment data gathered into the single report during the consolidated receivables process is received from a plurality of service providers.

87. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 81, wherein the code, when executed, further performs an allocation act comprising the acts of:

receiving the authorized payment;

disaggregating the received payment to associate portions of the received payment
with one or more selling sub-entities;
processing the received payment to update an accounts receivable system;
generating at least one funding report;
delivering the at least one funding report to the respective sub-entities; and
transferring the disaggregated funds to financial accounts for the corresponding
sub-entities.

88. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 87, wherein the funding report generation act is comprised of the act of updating a payment master database to reflect a distribution status and amount distributed to the corresponding subsidiary.

89. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 88, wherein the funding report comprises at least one of:

a list of sub-invoice items included in the distribution;
a payment date;
results of exception and dispute processing;
sub-invoice details; and
reason codes.

90. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the code, when executed, further performs an allocation act that includes the acts of:

receiving a payment;
determining an incremental funding amount;

funding a subsidiary corresponding to a holding account via a foreign exchange if the incremental funding amount equals or exceeds a predetermined total when combined with a holding account amount; and allocating the incremental funding amount to the holding account amount when the incremental funding amount is less than the predetermined total when combined with the holding account amount.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of assigning a unique reference number to the consolidated invoice to enable tracking and invoice management.

92.-93. (Canceled)

94. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 67 wherein the programmatic code further performs the act of assigning a unique reference number to the consolidated invoice to enable tracking and invoice management.

95. (Canceled)

96. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining before the order is booked whether the at least one buyer is able to effect payment.

97. (**Currently Amended**) A method for a payment allocation system for a seller, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving, at the payment allocation system, two or more orders or order data from a plurality of buyers associated with a plurality of buying entities, **wherein the two or more orders or order data include at least one order or order data from each of the plurality of buyers**, the seller, or at least one subsidiary of the seller;

consolidating, at the payment allocation system, the orders or order data into a plurality of consolidated invoices, each of the plurality of consolidated invoices comprising particulars on the orders of the plurality of buyers associated with one of the plurality of buying entities;

making each of the consolidated invoice available to the corresponding buying entity;

receiving, at the payment allocation system, each of the consolidated invoices from the corresponding buying entity, wherein each of the consolidated invoices includes an indication from the corresponding buying entity as to which of the orders a payment is being approved and which orders are being disputed or excepted;

receiving, at the payment allocation system, an aggregated payment from the each of the plurality of buying entities;

disaggregating each of the aggregated payments by associating portions of the aggregated payment with an approved order and a corresponding subsidiary;

allocating the portions of the aggregated payment to the corresponding subsidiary for which the payment has been made;

gathering A/R data and information based on the payments to subsidiaries, approved orders or the disputed or excepted orders; and

providing the A/R data and information to the seller.

98. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the consolidated invoice is received before or contemporaneous with an aggregated payment on the approved orders.
99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the aggregated payment comprises a payment to two or more subsidiaries of the seller.